

VEP NEWS

May 21, 1979

REPRESENTING OVER 2000 HOMEOWNERS IN VISTAPARK,
ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, BLOSSOM HEIGHTS, AND PARKVIEW VALLEY

The next meeting of the VEP Homeowners' Association will be Monday, May 21, 1979, at 7:30 p.m., at Mercury Savings & Loan, located on Blossom Hill Road at Pearl Avenue (Next to Angels).

AGENDA

Short Business Meeting

Presentation by City Manager
Mr. James Alloway

M A Y M E E T I N G

The City of San Jose is in the process of attempting to balance its budget. The budget must be balanced in spite of the many demands being put on the city council. The growth of the city must be managed. The city must keep the morale level of its employees high, but not doing it totally through higher salaries. The downtown section of San Jose must be developed. San Jose must carefully decide which (long range) public transportation alternative it will choose. Priorities must be set as to which city services will be diminished.

The city manager will influence all of the above events. With so much of our fate being influenced by one person, don't you think you should get to know him? Come meet Mr. James Alloway, San Jose City Manager, at our May Homeowner's meeting. Come and let him know how you feel.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! As you know, a new slate of officers for V.E.P. was recently elected and took office. On behalf of the Association and as its President, I want to thank the officers who served last year, and also all those of you who assisted them in so many ways. We all hope to continue to make V.E.P. an effective voice representing the legitimate needs of our geographical area in terms of our appropriate share of governmental services, as well as functioning as an organization to accomplish common goals and solve common problems.

There are several subjects wherein our government at various levels and through various bureaus and agencies is taking action which will have a significant detrimental impact on our quality of life here in V.E.P. country. One of those in particular is the ubiquitous Santa Clara Valley Corridor Evaluation (SCVCE) which has been studied now for several years. Unless both as individuals and an Organization we make our views known and do so loud and clear, certain local but non-resident politicians and some regional social planners who live outside the County will decide for us what form of transportation (read: light rail and no highways) they deem to be in our best interests. They will also decide where to place this marvelous transportation mode which is designed to "solve" our transportation congestion.

In that respect, you have probably noticed or have been told that the Public Utilities Commission has granted Southern Pacific the right to discontinue permanently its service on the Lick Branch. Thus, there will be no more trains, at 4 A.M. or otherwise, running down that line. The other side of the coin, however, is not so attractive. You may recall how a concerted effort in which almost everyone in V.E.P. country got involved resulted, in December of 1976, in our City Council taking a position that the Lick branch should not be used for light rail. Well, it is doubtful that the politicians and social planners who are committed to light rail will let that decision preclude them from wanting to use the Lick branch in their transportation plan. In fact, they have been using the term "Edenvale corridor" in referring to the proper location for the rail line, which could be construed as an attempt to conceal their true intent as to its precise location. As President, I am personally committed, and I will need the help and support of each of you, to guaranteeing that our community has a voice in this matter and that the next study be directed toward deciding not where to put a pre-conceived transportation mode but rather toward how to best solve the critical transportation needs of our area.



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Another matter which would greatly impact our area is Arcadia's plan to build almost 2000 apartment units (Monterey Village) on land located just south of Capitol Expressway and West of the S.P. mail line. In addition, they want to build over 1100 apartment units just east of Almaden Expressway at Chynoweth. These projects would require rezoning approval by the Planning Commission and the City Council, and the environmental impact reports themselves admit that traffic conditions, which are already below acceptable standards in many locations, would be even worse. So here is another area in which V.E.P. intends to have an input and hopefully influence the ultimate decision so that our incredible street congestion does not get even worse.

These are just some of the areas in which V.E.P. will be working during the coming months. It will require the determined effort and individual input from every member of our organization and community if we are to realize these goals.

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DO YOU HAVE AN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WITH ALUMINUM WIRING?
WARNING: YOU MAY HAVE A SERIOUS FIRE HAZARD.

HAZARDS OF ALUMINUM WIRE SYSTEMS. A fire hazard may exist in your home if it is wired with 15-20 amp aluminum wire. Government officials have investigated numerous complaints from homeowners throughout the nation whose houses have aluminum wire electrical systems. Many of these complaints involved electrical outlets burning, smoking, or glowing. Investigations in one county showed that a large percentage of homes using aluminum wiring had outlets with dangerously high temperatures. As a result, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has filed an action requesting that such systems be declared imminently hazardous consumer products.

THE PROBLEM WITH ALUMINUM WIRE SYSTEMS. Dangerous overheating may occur where aluminum wire connects to outlets or switches. This can happen on normal household circuits of 15 and 20 amperes and may make switches or outlets glow or smoke. When this happens, fire is a possibility. House wiring to appliances such as dishwashers, room air conditioners, and refrigerators may also share the same problem.

IF YOUR HOME HAS A 15 AND 20 AMP ALUMINUM WIRE SYSTEM THERE MAY BE A FIRE HAZARD. Signs of trouble are: cover plates on switches and outlets which are warm or hot to the touch; smoke coming from outlets or switches; sparks or arcing at switches and outlets; strange odors, especially the smell of burning plastic, in the area of outlets and switches; lights which flicker periodically; outlets, lights, or entire circuits which fail to work. TRAIN YOUR FAMILY TO RECOGNIZE THESE SIGNS. Although you may not find these symptoms in your home, the danger of fire may still be present. It can even occur at an outlet which has nothing plugged into it because current can pass through several outlets and junctions to an outlet at the far end of the circuit. When an appliance plugged into that outlet is turned on, the current passing through each of the outlets on the same line may cause one of them to overheat. In addition, even if you've lived in your house for years and had no trouble, a fire hazard may yet arise; the condition which causes aluminum wiring to become dangerous can take a long time to develop.

WHAT HOMES ARE IN DANGER. Property built or additions made between 1965 and 1973 may very well have aluminum wire. Up to 2 million homes may be involved nationwide. (Ed. note: Homes in the V.E.P. area have been found to have aluminum wiring) If you added or replaced wiring in your home between 1965 and 1973, aluminum wiring may have been used. Although manufacturers altered designs in 1972 to make aluminum electrical systems safer, your more recently built home may still be in danger since the sale of the old types of wire, outlets, and switches continued after that year.

SIMPLE WAYS TO CHECK YOUR HOME FOR ALUMINUM WIRE. If there are areas in the attic or garage where the wiring is open to view, check to see if the letters AL or the word ALUMINUM is printed or stamped every few feet on the outside jacket of the wire insulation. If neither marking is used, the wire is probably not aluminum. However, since some houses are partly wired with aluminum and

partly with copper, be alert for signs of trouble described above even if you do not find either marking. If no wiring is visible, call the builder or electrical contractor who wired your home and ask if the wiring is aluminum. You can also find out by having a qualified electrician come to your home and make a visual inspection. Unless you are qualified to make these inspections safely yourself, DO NOT remove cover plates on switches or outlets, DO NOT try to check the wiring in electrical panels or boxes, and DO NOT try to check the wiring on your appliances. YOU MAY RECEIVE A DANGEROUS OR EVEN FATAL SHOCK.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE ALUMINUM WIRING AND SEE ANY TROUBLE SIGNS. If a circuit, switch, or outlet shows signs of a problem TURN OFF POWER TO THAT CIRCUIT immediately at the circuit breaker box in your home. Make sure that you have turned off the correct circuit by testing with a lamp or light bulb that you KNOW is in working condition. Remove any and all flammable materials from the trouble area. Then have a QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN check and repair the wiring-- skill and the proper tools are needed to hook up aluminum wire correctly. IF REPAIRS ARE NOT DONE PROPERLY, THE HAZARD OF FIRE MAY STILL REMAIN.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TODAY. If you think you have aluminum wiring, write the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207 or call their toll-free number (800) 638-2666 to obtain a copy of their pamphlet "Do You Have An Electrical System With Aluminum Wiring?". Do this TODAY so you will have a copy to show the electrician if troubles arise; the last three pages contain step-by-step instructions for professional use in repairing aluminum wire systems. Whether or not you think you have aluminum wiring, equip your home with SMOKE DETECTORS and FIRE EXTINGUISHERS of the dry chemical or carbon dioxide type suitable for use against electrical fires.

CONSUMER FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON ALUMINUM WIRE SYSTEM PROBLEMS. If you have experienced any of the signs of trouble described in this article, be sure to call the U.S. CPSC at (415) 556-1816. Such information will be helpful in the Commission's continuing investigation of incidents involving such systems.

(Ed. note: This article excerpted from CPSC pamphlet described above)

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Anyone interested in working on any of these projects should call Marianne Lent at 629-7949:

- * Community Event for this summer - possible a 4th of July picnic. Suggestions are welcome.
- * Block Parent Program.
- * Operation Identification/Neighborhood Watch program.

Also, anyone with suggestions for other projects should feel free to call. VEP is your organization!

CREDIT PROBLEMS? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

The Federal Reserve System reports that long-term consumer debt, primarily property mortgages, is approaching \$800 billion, and short-term installment credit for consumer goods like cars and appliances has shot up to over \$270 billion. Mushrooming credit can often cause legal problems for those consumers "in over their heads," while others can't get credit when they need it. To help out, the Federal Reserve has issued a "Consumer Handbook to Credit Protection Laws," which may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Publications Section, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D. C. 20551.

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VACATION CHECK LIST TO PREVENT BURGLARIES

Looking forward to your vacation? Or a weekend away from home? You will relax more on your trip by following a simple checklist that will reduce the possibility of your home being burglarized or vandalized. This checklist has been provided by the San Jose Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (277-4133).

at least one day before you leave

- 1. NOTIFY THE POST OFFICE TO HOLD YOUR MAIL OR ARRANGE WITH A NEIGHBOR TO PICK UP AND HOLD YOUR MAIL.
- 2. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE YOUR LAWN MOWED AND WATERED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY. HAVE SOMEONE CHECK DAILY TO REMOVE NEWSPAPERS AND CIRCULARS FROM YOUR DOORWAY AND YARD.
- 3. HAVE A NEIGHBOR PLACE YOUR GARBAGE CANS ON THE CURB ON NORMAL PICK UP DAYS AND THEN RETURN THEM AFTER THE GARBAGE PICK UP IS MADE.
- 4. IF YOU HAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR HOUSE, TAKE THEM TO YOUR BANK FOR STORAGE IN A SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT. DEPOSIT EXTRA CASH IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.
- 5. MAKE SURE ANY BROKEN WINDOWS, DOOR LOCKS OR WINDOW LOCKS ARE REPAIRED.
- 6. ARRANGE WITH A NEIGHBOR OR RELATIVE TO WATCH YOUR HOUSE WHILE YOU ARE GONE, GIVE THEM A KEY AND LET THEM KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE REACHED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. GIVE THEM A DESCRIPTION AND LICENSE NUMBER OF YOUR VEHICLE. WRITE THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER DOWN SO YOU CAN CHECK WITH THEM DURING YOUR TRIP.
- 7. MOVE ALL LADDERS, TOOLS, LAWN IMPLEMENTS, AND YARD FURNITURE TO YOUR GARAGE OR STORAGE SHED.

on the day you leave

- 1. SET YOUR THERMOSTAT SO THAT YOUR FURNACE OR AIR CONDITIONER WILL MAINTAIN A REASONABLE TEMPERATURE--80° F IN THE SUMMER AND 55° F IN THE WINTER.
- 2. MAKE SURE ALL GAS APPLIANCES ARE IN GOOD ORDER AND THAT PILOT LIGHTS ARE WORKING.
- 3. TURN OFF WATER TO AUTOMATIC WASHER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE FROM A BROKEN HOSE.
- 4. TURN DOWN THE VOLUME CONTROL ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR TELEPHONE SO IT CANNOT BE HEARD FROM OUTSIDE.
- 5. LOCK ALL WINDOWS AND SLIDING GLASS DOORS.
- 6. PUT WINDOW SHADES IN THE NORMAL DAY-TIME POSITIONS AND MAKE SURE ALL MAIN FLOOR DRAPES, SHADES AND CURTAINS ARE ARRANGED SO THAT NEIGHBORS AND POLICE CAN SEE INTO YOUR HOUSE.
- 7. IF YOU ARE LEAVING A CAR OR OTHER VEHICLE IN YOUR DRIVEWAY, MAKE SURE IT IS LOCKED.
- 8. SET YOUR ELECTRIC TIMER TO TURN SOME LIGHTS ON AND OFF DURING THE EVENING HOURS. RADIOS CAN ALSO BE SET ON TIMERS.
- 9. LOCK YOUR GARAGE DOOR.
- 10. MAKE SURE THE LAST PERSON OUT LOCKS THE DOOR. TAKE A WALK AROUND THE HOUSE AND CHECK ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS.
- 11. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, LEAVE YOUR KEY WITH A NEIGHBOR OR RELATIVE. CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER.

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VISTAPARK CENTER-GRAND OPENING

This brand new shopping center at the corner of Vistapark Drive and Capitol Expressway is scheduled to open sometime during the middle of May, 1979. Real Estate World, Farmer's Insurance (Vistapark Insurance Center) and Swenson's Cleaners would be the first businesses to move into the center. Others to follow in the near future would be a beauty shop, an ice-cream place, a flower shop and a restaurant. The main access would be located off Vistapark Drive.

NEIGHBORHOOD WANT ADS

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LICENSED DAY CARE - Love, attention and care in my home near Belden, Weekly, daily, or hourly, call Margaret at 578-9133.

LICENSED CHILD CARE - Ages, Three and up near Parkview School, lunch and snack provided, Call Norma at 629-0570.

CHILD CARE - Ages, three and up weekdays, near Parkview, call Mrs. Saroj, 226-7463.

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- ANITA - Age ,\$.90/hr 225-8195
- JENNY - Age 14, \$1/hr 578-1037
- KARIN - Age 14, \$1/hr 226-8120
- LANEL - Age 13, \$1/hr 227-8758
- MEG - Age 15, \$1/hr 226-9339
- SHARON- Age 16, \$1/hr 225-1791
- VALERIE-Age 14, \$1/hr 226-6301
- LISA - Age 11½, \$.75/hr 227-7196
- DEE - Age 11½, \$.75/hr 225-4241

HOUSE PAINTING - Vistapark resident - Specializing in professional painting at moderate prices. Free estimates on interior or exterior painting of homes or apartments. Will do acoustical ceilings. Jim Allen. 629-9664.

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INSTRUCTION

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My home, Pearl, Branham and Blossom Hill area. Call Judy 578-5523.

JOIN HOME ALERT

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THE VEP NEWS

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